

Welcome to the MONTANA PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

Servicing Montana since 1917

The Montana Public Health Laboratory (MTPHL) has been in operation since October 1917. The one-person staff at that time analyzed and reported (sometimes by telegram, sent “collect”) about 100 tests per month. Today a staff of 20 clinical laboratory scientists perform and report about 14,000 tests per month. The range and complexity of tests has changed dramatically due to the scientific advances in the 20th century.

The primary function of the public health laboratory is to provide testing of community health importance directed at the prevention and control of disease and improvement of the community's health. The public health laboratory is concerned with the health of the community as a whole and places emphasis on prevention services, disease surveillance and control, and outreach to high risk populations. The Montana Public Health Laboratory is proud to provide the most up-to-date technologies and is here to serve you in an effort to protect the health of our communities.

In addition, the MTPHL performs a consultative role, providing information to a multitude of public health partners. MTPHL provides information regarding

- ◆ tests of public health significance, appropriate test selection, and specimen requirements,
- ◆ results of specific laboratory tests aggregated for statewide surveillance,
- ◆ training and continuing education opportunities,
- ◆ state-of-the-art test methods for diagnosis of emerging infectious diseases, or intentional bio- or chemical terrorist threats.

MTPHL also provides special consultations tailored to specific events or unusual circumstances.

For more information about MTPHL and its services, contact us at 800-821-7284 or e-mail mtphl@mt.gov

Visit our website at www.lab.hhs.mt.gov